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Director of the United States Geological Survey.

THE SELECTION OF PRESIDENTS OF THE
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE following report of the committee on election of President, and changes in the constitution, were unanimously adopted at the recent meeting of the American Chemical Society:

The committee appointed to consider a possible revision of the current procedure of the election of a president of the society begs leave to make the following report:

Your committee is of the opinion:

(a) That there is need for an increased interest on the part of the membership at large in the selection of presidents of the society, and (b) that there should be some procedure adopted which will ensure the presentation of four nominees to the electing body as provided for in the constitution.

After correspondence, consultation and discussion, the majority of your committee makes the following recommendations which they believe will greatly improve the situation, and which, they also believe, can be given a trial without involving changes in the constitution, which are undesirable in these times of stress, notably because of the clerical labor which they require.

These recommendations are:

(1) That the secretary be empowered to request each local section of the society to submit to him, not later than October 15, the name of some person from the membership at large of the society whom they consider suitable for nomination for the office of president of the society. It should be made clear that the selection is to be made from the entire society, and not necessarily from the membership of the Section making the suggestion.

(2) That the Secretary be empowered to send out, with the nominating ballots sent to the members of the society on November 1, as required by the constitution, the names thus suggested by the local sections, the list to be

alphabetical and without indication of the section or sections from which any name may have been submitted. This list should be accompanied by a statement indicating that other nominations by individual members are in order, and that the list is suggestive only.

(3) That the secretary be requested to ascertain by telegraph from each member whose name is thus suggested by the local sections, and before the list is sent out, whether, in the event of nomination by the members at large, he will allow his name to be presented to the council as a nominee for the office of president.

(4) That the subsequent procedure be the same as at present.

Two members of your committee (Major Frankforter and Dr. Richardson) dissent from the foregoing recommendations. They favor a return to a procedure abandoned some years ago, under which nominations would be made by the council and submitted to the entire membership of the society for election. The majority of your committee has carefully considered this proposal, but is of the opinion that it is not advisable to revert to the older custom. They favor a trial of the procedure as outlined above before making changes in the constitution. They are of the opinion that this procedure will serve to increase the interest of members in the election of a president, and that it will prove satisfactory. It can be put into immediate operation and avoid constitutional changes at a time when they present unusual difficulties.

Your committee has reviewed the constitution and, while there are some clauses which might be modified in wording to some advantage, there appear to the majority of your committee to be no matters of serious import at this time. They recommend that no alterations be made at present.

Respectfully submitted,

H. P. TALBOT,

M. T. BOGERT,

by H. P. T.

B. F. LOVELACE,

by H. P. T.